

AVAILABILITY SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY FEBRUARY 21, 2007

ATTENDEES: Dr. Marilea Miller, Jim Williams, Leigh Joos, Eileen McGrath, Renee' Kyttle, Quankeiair Scott, Monica Grant
Sent Regrets: Brenda Lee, Jackie Douge'
Guest speaker: Nicole Hoff

Review of 1/24/07 Availability Meeting minutes: No additions or changes

ICCC Update: Met 2/2/07 and 2/16/07; draft bylaws have been completed and will be presented at the March 14th Coalition meeting; Community Health Needs assessment contract has been approved by the Bd. Of County Commissioners and will be beginning soon. As more information becomes available, it will be shared with the group.

Community Foundation of Frederick County – Leigh gave a brief summary of the foundation and its function. To start a fund, a minimum of \$10,000 is needed or a commitment to invest at least this much within a 2-year period. Returns on investments of fund dollars can be used for non-profit grants or scholarships. The benefit of this organization to the committee in the near future might be as a source of grant monies. 2006 grants were just awarded 1/07 and several grants assisted health service programs (i.e. FCAA)

Catholic Charities – Renee' shared that she spoke with Ray Rother, Villa Maria Program Supervisor, and that mental health services are the only medical services being offered by Catholic Charities in our area at this time; he would welcome an opportunity to partner with the coalition/availability committee.

Dental Needs Assessment - Nicole Hoff, a Hood College Senior, has been gathering data on dental needs and available services for the underserved in Frederick County; she shared information obtained from surveys completed at a Frederick Dental Society meeting, the FCHD Dental Clinic, and the Frederick Mission of Mercy site. Although she is currently working to compile all of the information she's gathered, points shared include:

- Medical Assistance-dental coverage available only for kids up to 18
- Only 3 dentists in Frederick County and the health department clinic accept MA (Monica shared that the clinic saw approx. 2500 children last year, has a 4 month waiting list and that only about half of the kids who have MA are receiving care in the county)
- Dentists cited "low rates", "excessive paperwork", and "no show rates" as reasons for not accepting MA
- More than three-fourths of dentists surveyed stated that they would consider or currently serve as a resource for pro-bono cases
- Mission of Mercy (Frederick site) typically sees 9-11 dental patients/day but must turn away an average of 5-10 (but up to 30) individuals; patients

often arrive hours before the mobile clinic opens(some as early as 3 am) and some must return multiple times before being seen due to limited capacity; the Brunswick site serves about 13 patients each clinic and turn away 10-12

Monica noted that information gathered by Nicole will be useful for future grant applications to increase dental services.

Addendum: In response to members' questions about the number of FMH ER visits for dental care, the following information was forwarded by Monica Grant after this meeting:

FY '05 - 206

FY '06 - 277

Note: There was a 34% increase for '05 to '06 in all age groups except 65+

Update on Member Activities - As mentioned at the last meeting, Elizabeth Chung is applying for a Kellogg grant to decrease barriers to health care for Asian Americans; the proposed program would use a "community health worker" model. Committee members wondered if a "letter of support" from the Frederick County Health Care Coalition-Availability Committee might be helpful to the application's acceptance.

Per Monica Grant, Jackie Douge' (FCHD) is investigating a grant opportunity, associated with the American Academy of Pediatrics, which might support additional dental services for children.

Discussion of upcoming Availability Committee goals/activities

The possibility of developing an Availability Fact sheet was suggested.

Members expressed concern regarding the difficulty of raising funds or soliciting donations without having a "non-profit" status. Recognizing that a decision to pursue non-profit status would require support from the entire coalition/Executive Board (yet to be elected), the committee agreed that presenting an informational sheet listing possible "Pros and Cons" of obtaining non-profit/501(c)3 status could be developed to present at the March coalition meeting. Jim Williams, Marilea Miller, and Leigh Joos will work on this and present it to the ICCC at their next meeting (3/2) for possible inclusion in the coalition meeting agenda.

The next Availability Committee will be April 25th, 4-5:30pm at FMH.